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DRIVE statements of support in appointment of CRAIG THOMPSON to DOT Secretary

(MADISON, WI) – The three leaders of DRIVE (*Devote Resources, Invest for a Vibrant Economy*) today released this statement regarding the appointment of Craig Thompson as DOT Secretary:

“It is with great pleasure that we announce our support of the appointment of Craig Thompson to the Secretary’s office at DOT,” stated Tom Diehl, DRIVE president and owner of Tommy Bartlett Inc. in the Wisconsin Dells. “Tourism generates billions of dollars for Wisconsin – and we cannot grow this industry without good roads. Craig has been the head of the TDA for the past 10 years, he’s been a steady and trusted advocate for finding a transportation funding solution for Wisconsin and we are very pleased to have him serve as DOT Secretary.”

“Craig Thompson will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Secretary’s office at DOT,” added Jim Holte, DRIVE treasurer and president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. “He understands that investing in local roads and bridges is an integral part of any 21st century transportation system.

“Agriculture is an \$88 billion industry that thrives on a system of roads, rails and rivers to connect us to regional and global markets. That system must be effective and efficient if our farmers are to remain competitive. We’re hopeful Mr. Thompson also shares that vision.”

Steve Baas, vice president of DRIVE and senior vice president of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce’s government affairs team agrees. “Craig Thompson is the right man for the job,” said Baas. “Craig was appointed by Governor Walker to be on the 2012 Transportation Finance and Policy Committee, which developed a comprehensive plan for solving the transportation funding crisis. He’s been on the front lines advocating for a funding solution for the past several years. We are looking forward to working with Craig on these important funding issues.”

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DRIVE coordinates and implements a legislative advocacy strategy to enact a sustainable, long-term transportation plan that will keep Wisconsin's economy strong. Members express their concerns to policymakers as work on a regular basis.

DRIVE is co-chaired by Tom Diehl, co-owner of Tommy Bartlett Incorporated in the Wisconsin Dells; Steve Baas, Senior Vice President of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce and Jim Holte, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

For more information on the DRIVE COALITION, please visit our website at: www.wisconsindrive.com